

PARIS

Hôtel Lancaster

The Lancaster is the new Ritz. It's where everyone who is anyone wants to stay. But while the Ritz came to fame in the late 1800s by imitating the lifestyle of rich society, the Lancaster has made its mark not with grandeur but with discretion.

It must be the only five-star hotel in Paris with no public spaces... whatsoever. The only non-guests are either friends of the guests or journalists arriving for interviews with the likes of Quentin Tarantino, Jeremy Irons or Matt Damon. Each room is different, but what they have in common are their quirky, unexpected features: a hidden closet, a bathroom with a balcony, or a roof terrace with a view of the Eiffel Tower. The place oozes aristocratic ease.

The style of the hotel owes much to the collecting zeal of its first owner, Émile Wolf, who filled his Haussmann-era apartment building with splendid antiques. Yet in time the hotel suffered the fate of so many grand hotels – it became

stuffy. Its resurrection came about by the energetic intervention of Grace Leo-Andrieu. She and her husband Stéphane bought the Lancaster in 1996 and embarked upon the modernisation it so needed. That included restoring the antiques, adding minimal marble bathrooms and introducing a sense of modernity to complement M. Wolf's superb collection. Today the Lancaster is the embodiment of the classic Parisian interior that we all dream of experiencing at least once. And with discretion being the new luxury, you can be confident that no one will ever know that you did.

Hotel

The Lancaster

Address7 rue de Berri,
Champs Elysees
75007 Paris**Reservations**

+33 (0) 140764008

Room rate

€765 (approx. £478)

Discount

20%

Minimum stay

two nights

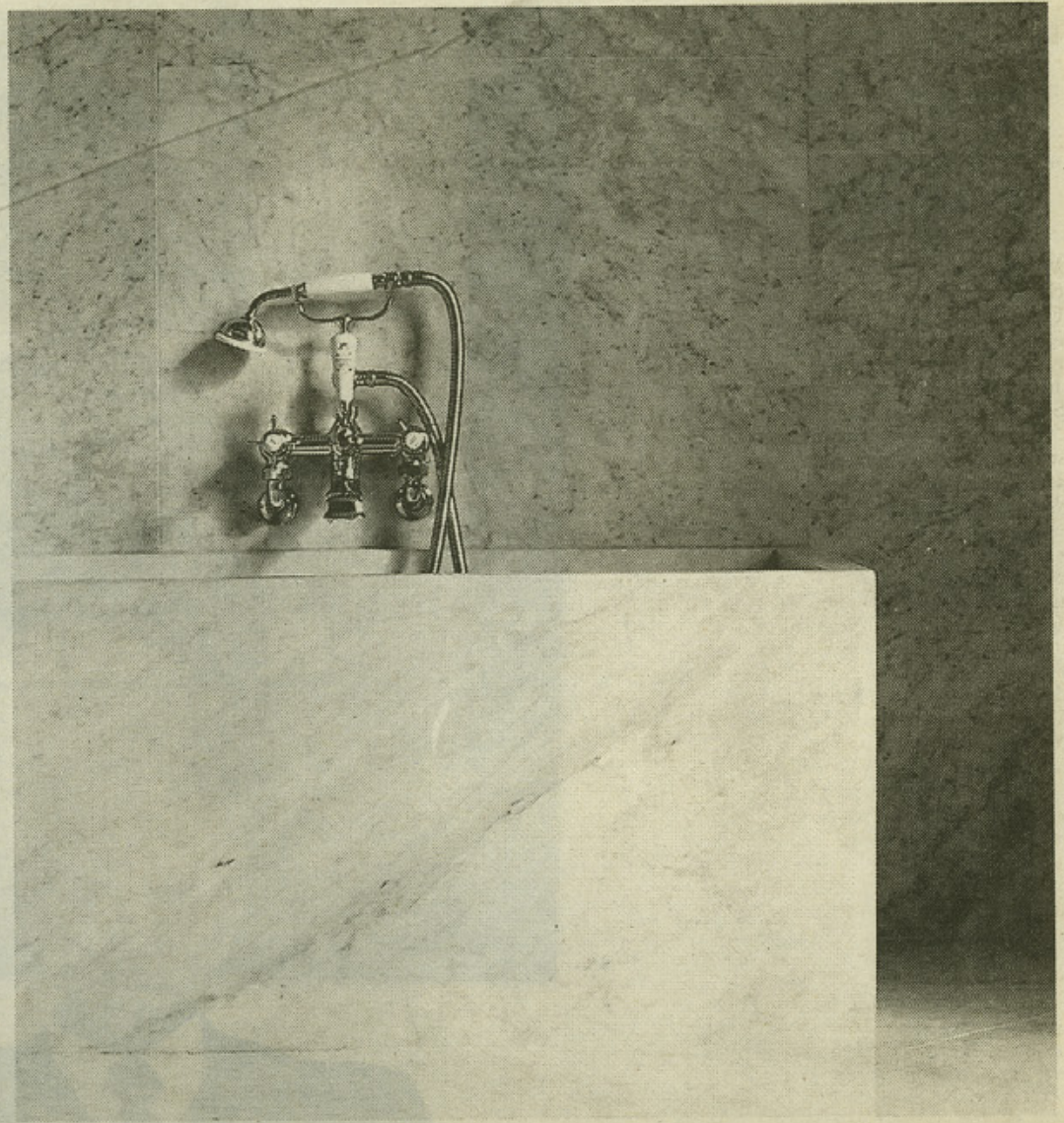
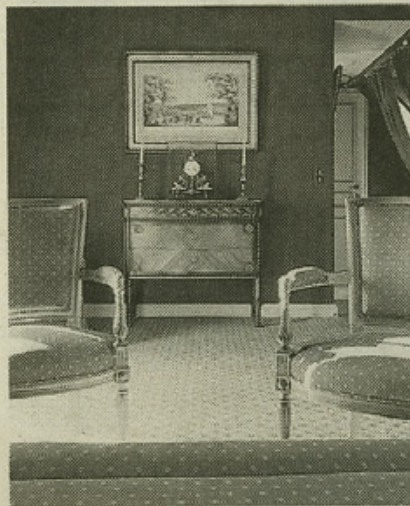
Termsexcludes Sep 18-Oct
13; Oct 22-28; offer
available on standard
Suites only and
includes breakfast,
one day museum
pass, service and VAT**web site**

www.hotel-

lancaster.fr

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ROME

Hotel Locarno



Locarno is a genuine enigma: though almost always full, you hardly ever see anyone, and when you do they almost inevitably slink away quietly at the slightest hint of someone else's arrival. It's one of the few places I've stayed where almost nobody turns up for breakfast. The interior of the hotel reflects the fact that the owners, a mother-daughter team, have travelled extensively throughout Europe

in search of antiques to furnish it. Over the years they have assembled quite a collection of Art Nouveau, Belle Époque and Art Deco pieces. In fact, the Locarno is a never-ending design project

Hotel

Hotel Locarno

AddressVia della Penna 22,
00186 Rome**Reservations**

+39 0636 10841

Room rate€310-€510 (approx.
£194-£319)**Discount**

30%

Minimum stay

three nights

Termsexcludes Apr 24-May 1;
offer available on
Deluxe Rooms and
Suites only**web site**

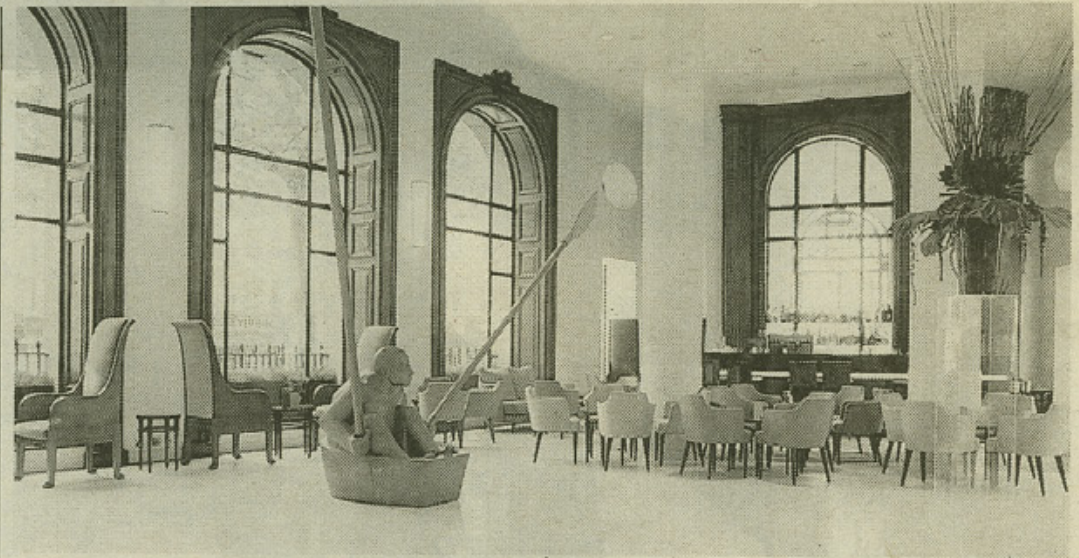
www.hotellocarno.com

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Hip Hotels Italy

Small, intimate, stylish and highly individual, Hotel Locarno has consistently been voted the best three-star hotel in Rome... and by Italian newspapers and magazines, no less. It is also a favourite with the film industry.

In fact, with its Belle Époque birdcage lift, crumbling terrazzo floor and genuine Art Nouveau bentwood furniture, it could be a film set. This is the kind of place where dark-haired women clad in clinging black and Manolo Blahnik mules arrive on the back of motorbikes and disappear into the lift, never to be seen again. With the outward appearance of a setting in an Agatha Christie novel, Hotel



LONDON

One Aldwych

Underwater Mozart – nothing more vividly captures the extra attention to detail that separates One Aldwych from other five-star luxury hotels. Music in the pool, television while you shave, an in-house cinema for private screenings, fibre-optic lighting, politically-correct vacuum plumbing that uses 75 per cent less water than conventional systems: Gordon Campbell-Gray has created a unique hotel by considering details even grand hotels would consider extravagant.

In design, he was intent upon eliminating the chintz and paring down the plush.

Ambience is provided by lighting and by contemporary art. Each room is equipped with American as well as European modern plugs (ISDN) to accommodate the laptops of the working traveller.

All the details and services that have been pumped into this hotel make it one of the world's most accommodatingly luxurious places to stay. Even so, its most impressive element remains the architecture. This classically elegant building, originally built in 1907 as the offices of the Morning Post, is one of the most important Edwardian buildings in London. And no hotel is better located for London's theatre scene.

Hotel

One Aldwych

Address

1 Aldwych, London

Reservations

020 7300 0500

Room rate

£290-£370

Discount

30%

Minimum stay

none

Termsexcludes May 20-23;
Jun 17-20; Jun 24-
Jul 7; July 23-25**web site**

www.onealdwych.com

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